

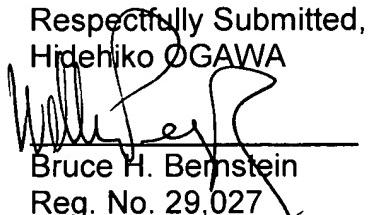
Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), a copy of the U.S. patent publication is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above materials as well as the manner in which they were interpreted by the Canadian Examiner and cite the same. The above-noted documents are listed on an attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the Canadian Office Action is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form, and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, Applicant hereby certifies that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement (i.e., above-noted document (2)) was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement, and thus no fee is required to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

December 6, 2006
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